

Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

Subcommittee on Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology

Summary Statement of Clint Wolfe, Ph.D.

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- 1) What role should local communities and governments play, if any, in the development and demonstration of new nuclear technologies? and
- 2) With respect to nuclear reactors and fuel cycle facilities, what are the key safety, environmental and security concerns for local communities, and how should these be addressed?

Dr. Wolfe's responses to these questions are contained in examples from actual experience in the local communities around the Savannah River Site (SRS) and, on a regional basis, the activities in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

The extent to which some of these examples will be pertinent in the future will depend to some degree on the nature of the models used for pursuit of these issues, e.g. whether the initiatives are purely public ones or some combination of public/private initiatives.

Communities in both the local and regional sense need to look at their workforce development needs and enlist trade schools, technical colleges and 4-year universities to provide the educational requirements of a nuclear resurgence. Innovative strategies for partnering between local and regional governments, the federal government, and private entities can be employed to the benefit of all. Examples are given.

An educated and supportive citizenry is very important to the location of and the success of new reactor and fuel cycle technology development. The need for transparency is paramount regardless of the model used because it forms the basis of trust between the developers and the community.

Safety is a top priority in maintaining public trust. Public support will be dependent on safe operations and the open communication of potential issues.

Environmental impacts should be planned to be positive ones and seen as additive to the quality of life in the community. Again, transparency enabled by effective communication is very important.

The sum of the examples used to address the two questions posed here illustrates the vast resources in the South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia region and how they have been used successfully to create a nuclear friendly environment.

The importance of citizens' input to the Commission's deliberation was acknowledged and thanks given for the invitation to participate.